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NEWSBYTES

Order of the Sword

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe enlisted corps will honor Gen. John P. Jumper when they induct him into the USAFE Order of the Sword April 8, 2000.

General Jumper, who has commanded USAFE since December 1997, will become the fourteenth recipient in 27 years.

The Order of the Sword is the highest honor the Air Force enlisted corps can bestow on an officer. General Jumper has been selected to become the next commander of the Air Force's Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va. (Courtesy USAFE News Service)

'Sleigh Ride' CD deploys

The U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band is reaching out to deployed Air Combat Command troops with a 1999 holiday CD, "Sleigh Ride."

More than 3,700 copies were distributed in Southwest Asia, Bosnia, South America, and the Caribbean.

A recording of the CD is available at <http://www2.acc.af.mil/music>.

Helo mishap investigation

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Air Force Space Command has released the results of its investigation into an Oct. 3 mishap involving a UH-1N helicopter.

An Accident Investigation Board concluded that the crash was caused primarily due to the mission pilots flying too low and too slow for the altitude, terrain, and winds/turbulence. Once the aircraft began to sink, they did not have enough power, airspeed, or altitude to recover.

The helicopter, from the 37th Helicopter Flight, 90th Space Wing, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., crashed near Cameron Pass, Colo., during a search and rescue mission for a missing 3-year-old boy in a heavily wooded valley. All helicopter crewmembers were treated and released for minor injuries.

DFAS works pay issues

- Service wraps up enlisted bonus, incentive, longevity pay increases

Air Force finance officials continue to work with the Defense Finance Accounting Service to wrap up several pay issues concerning enlisted bonus payments, the career enlisted flight incentive program, and longevity pay increases.

According to Col. Martha Beatty, AFAFO director, the Air Force Personnel Center identified an additional 700 airmen eligible for the initial enlistment bonus to DFAS. DFAS made those payments within five to seven workdays of notification.

AFPC will continue working with the DFAS to identify other members

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Air Force finance officials continue to work with the Defense Finance Accounting Service to wrap up several pay issues concerning several enlisted career fields.

Deployed e-mail access

- Air Force balances with security

WASHINGTON — As the Air Force continues efforts to shore up its computer network defenses, officials remain committed to providing deployed troops access to the Internet for morale purposes.

Even as commanders remain committed to providing deployed troops access to morale e-mail, they must also consider security in the information realm.

To help reduce this security risk, the Air Force is taking steps to block access on its networks to tools such as commercial e-mail services and Internet chat links, "which provide an unacceptable risk to our networks by offering easy avenues of attack," said Chief

Master Sgt. Ray Kennedy, business systems analyst, Air Force Directorate of Communications and Information Support Systems Branch.

"The World Wide Web and e-mail are technologies that have become deeply intertwined with Air Force mission processes,"

However, Chief Kennedy stressed, actions being taken will not eliminate troops' access to morale e-mail.

"Our networks are under attack everyday by hackers and malicious code writers, and we expect increased activity by those who would use the Y2K rollover as an opportu-

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Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week.

Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>. Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

Bed of roses

In reference to "AF still a military force," [Dec. 8] I agree not all complaints are valid, but most are. I don't agree that the civilian market is not a bed of roses ... As for new airmen coming in and wanting out after four or so years, they still have an idea of what the civilian sector is like and would prefer that ... We have some of the best individual leaders who work hard on a daily basis, and get little to no gratitude for a job well done. I'm sure these airmen and NCOs can serve the civilian sector with the same respect and duty as they do the Air Force.

Staff Sgt. Scott Yaden
Offutt AFB, Neb.

Proud to serve

After reading the letter, "AF still a military force" [Dec. 8], I had to voice my opinion. The

writer must have held a special duty assignment that no one else knows about, with no stress, no shortages in his AFSC, no retraining considerations, and no pay or medical concerns ... The noise you hear rumbling amongst the the Air Force isn't because we aren't proud of what we do, it's because we are!

Andre Rogers
Patrick AFB, Fla.

Twist on promotion testing

Promotion testing for senior NCOs should be based on what competing NCOs should know for the position they are competing for, rather than information they could readily find with a few minutes of research ... If the Air Force is to determine that I am fit to lead, I'm sure you would be more comfortable knowing that on a day-to-day basis, I have the knowledge necessary to get the job done ...

Master Sgt. Wilson Rodriguez Jr.
Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

Shot in the arm small price to pay

By Lt. Gen. Hal M. Hornburg
Ninth Air Force, Shaw AFB, S.C.

Recent news stories in various media outlets have questioned the effectiveness of an important Department of Defense initiative to vaccinate all military people against anthrax.

It's easy for someone to keep the rhetoric going on an issue like this, but as a senior military commander, who has before and may well again send airmen into combat, I find it disconcerting. The issue of protecting our people before and during battle is paramount. The list of countries that possess biological weapons includes some that can be damaging to our national interests, such as North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Libya and Sudan. Russia, too, may still have anthrax weaponized.

There is an increasing threat of the use of anthrax as a weapon. It's not a matter of if, but when, anthrax will be used as a weapon. I am not alone in this view. The State Department recognizes anthrax agents may become a potential health risk at our diplomatic and consular facilities abroad. Therefore, the State Department decided to institute a voluntary, worldwide anthrax immunization program for eligible U.S. government employees and their families serving abroad.

Some have criticized us for having a misplaced reliance on the vaccine as our only safeguard. This view is distorted, at best. The

vaccine is only one part of our anthrax defense program. The vaccine provides us with solid protection, but we also depend upon detection, the use of our protective masks if there's potential exposure, and further prophylaxis with antibiotics following exposure. With this combined approach, we have solid protection against this threat.

Under our program, we follow the Food and Drug Administration-approved vaccination schedule — our policy from the beginning. More than 90 percent of Air Force active duty and Reserve people who have started the vaccine series have followed the FDA-approved schedule. That's a remarkable accomplishment when you consider that more than 100,000 of our total force of more than 400,000 people have started the vaccine series.

Women have reported twice the number of local reactions as men, but we haven't seen

Anthrax

information resources

Still not sure about that shot? Get the scoop by going to the:

- DoD's Anthrax Web Site at <http://www.anthrax.osd.mil/>
- Centers for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/>
- Food and Drug Administration at <http://www.fda.gov/>
- Johns Hopkins University at <http://www.hopkins-biodefense.org/>
- Mayo Clinic at <http://www.mayo.edu/>
- National Institutes of Health ("Understanding Vaccines") at <http://www.nih.gov/>
- American Medical Association at <http://www.ama-assn.org/>
- World Health Organization at <http://www.who.org/>

any more severe reactions in women than in men. In the summer of 1999, the Air Force surgeon general directed all health care providers to report adverse reactions and that people get the appropriate follow-up.

The anthrax vaccine has an established track record, with a license dating back to 1970. The FDA has repeatedly stated in congressional testimony that the vaccine is safe, effective and appropriate for DOD use.

It's my responsibility, as a commander sending airmen into battle, to give you every weapon I can to protect you against the enemy. The anthrax threat is real. Anthrax kills and I will not send America's airmen into combat without the best force protection products available. Don't listen to rumors; do your own research. When you do, I believe you will find, as I did, that the threat is real and the vaccine is both effective and safe.



Air Force continues to focus on people programs

By Senior Airman James Garrett

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.

— The No. 1 priority for the Air Force in 2000 is people.

Gen. Lester Lyles, Air Force vice chief of staff, made this clear during a visit here Dec. 8-9.

"We need to make sure that we're focusing on quality of life and all the other initiatives and needs of our people," the general said. "If you talk to the leadership in the Air Force and in the Department of Defense, everybody talks about the successful year we had working with Congress — getting pay table reform, the highest pay raise we've had in years and retirement reforms.

"We did great in those areas, but there's still a lot more that needs to be done to support our people," he said.

The general pointed to health care as one of those areas.

"Part of people care is in the area of medical care for military members and the other part of our force that we can't forget about, our retirees," he said. "We have hundreds of thousands of Air Force retirees ... that we cannot forget; that we owe allegiance to."

The general said Air Force senior leadership looks forward to continuing to work with congressional leaders on the issue of health care.

"We've heard some very strong words from members of Congress who want to ... work the area of health benefits. We'll be focusing on that as a major people initiative for the coming year," he said.

Housing is also high on the Air Force's list of people issues, the vice chief of staff said. "The Air Force has about 110,000 housing units for our people around the world. About 65,000 ... need to be renovated or rebuilt to meet the ... standards we'd like to have for our people."

To achieve this, General Lyles said, the Air Force has devised a master plan "to lay

out the kinds of renovations needed to get our housing up to standards by 2010.

"The big challenge to us is where do we get the money to do all of that. We need about \$300 million in the next fiscal year to stay on schedule," he said.

The general also touched on the expeditionary aerospace force, science and technology, training and equal opportunity.

"We realize we're going to be learning for the next couple of years — learning how the [EAF] concept is working, what changes we need to make, about the tasking process, about units and unit integrity," he said.

One lesson already learned, he added, is that "we have to find a better way to help" in areas where Air Force assets are low in numbers and high in demand. These include aircraft, weapon systems and people.

He offered security forces as an example. "Right now, our security forces are relatively low in numbers compared to need, and they're being tasked to support contingencies around the world.

"We're doing things to try to help," the general said, citing the addition of more billets in security forces as one example.

The Air Force also needs to continue supporting science and technology, the general said, "for the very simple reason that everything we do today, all of the systems and

capability we have today — from the most sophisticated to the most rudimentary platforms — are based on science and technology developed 20 and 30 years ago.

"I can't imagine an Air Force 20 years from now operating on 1960s and '70s technology," he said. "We need to continue the investment in science and technology. Otherwise, we'll find we're a second-rate service."

"I can't imagine an Air Force 20 years from now operating on 1960s and '70s technology. We need to continue the investment in science and technology. Otherwise, we'll find we're a second-rate service."

Gen. Lester Lyles



U.S. Air Force photo

Air Force finance officials continue to work with the Defense Finance Accounting Service to wrap up several pay issues concerning several enlisted career fields like boom operators.

DFAS works pay issues

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eligible for the bonus to ensure payment is made.

"We will monitor over the next several months to ensure all is well," Colonel Beatty said.

In another pay issue, more than 8,000 active duty, Reserve and Guard people have been identified under the CEFIP, she said.

"DFAS has processed about 5,000 active duty records and the remainder will be completed to meet December's end-of-month pay," said Col. Samuel Wall, director of military pay at DFAS, Denver Center.

Colonel Wall said the Reserve personnel data has been sent to the reserve components. "Their data must be input in the field, not the DFAS central site."

A new issue that cropped up has also been resolved, Colonel Beatty said.

"DFAS discovered a longevity pay computation error in early December for 7,200 Air Force members."

She said the impact is a reduction of between \$1 to \$40 per member. DFAS quickly corrected this situation with a supplemental payroll. The bottom line is that affected members will receive correct mid-month pay, however, it will appear as two separate electronic deposits to their bank accounts.

"The [mid-month] net pay advisories are understated for those 7,200 airmen, but the corrected transactions will be reflected in the leave and earnings statement at the end of the month," she said.



AF memorial one step closer

By Staff Sgt.
Cynthia Miller
Headquarters United
States Air Force

WASHINGTON — The Air Force Memorial project will soon reach a landmark stage in its development despite a controversial beginning.

This spring, the project will undergo another review by the National Capital Planning Commission to ensure its design is within the approved concept and continues to meet commission standards.

Air Force Memorial Foundation President, retired Maj. Gen. Charles D. Link, is concerned that the project's opponents may use this review to launch another round of opposition.

"They may argue that the project requires an environmental impact study, as opposed to the very thorough environmental assessment already completed," the general said.

The National Capital Planning Commission is a third party deliberative body that will compare the original design concept to the building proposal to ensure it meets aesthetic and building standards.

"Naturally, the commission will be sensitive to what they might see as public concern," General Link said.

"The unfortunate outcome could be that the planning commission could get the impression that some other service cares more about our memorial not being there than we care about it being there."

Beyond this, the memorial project continues on schedule and General Link said he hopes to break ground in December next year.



image by the Air Force Association

The Air Force Memorial project (model pictured here) will soon reach a landmark stage in its development despite a controversial beginning.

"We've raised almost \$20 million and that brings us to about two-thirds of what we need," the General said. The overall budget for the memorial is \$30 million.

"We're very grateful for the many contributions we've received through CFC [Combined Federal Campaign], and from members of the Air Force Sergeants Association, and Air Force Association," he said.

In an attempt to reach its final fundraising goal of \$30 million, the foundation began a direct mail campaign that focuses on increasing public awareness as well as raising funds.

"We are doing better than breaking even almost four months ahead of schedule. I think that's because enthusiasm for the project was underestimated."

After meeting the review board this spring, the memorial project will have a final review for building permits before December 2000.

E-mail access

continued from Page 1

nity to conduct mischief," the chief noted.

"Our people's quality of life is of paramount importance to every commander and these technologies play a vital role in meeting their needs," Chief Kennedy said.

"Commanders are encouraged to provide morale e-mail services via .mil accounts as much as possible, within the limits of their particular security and network capacity."

One tool the chief cited is "GI Mail" developed by Air Mobility Command, which meets the service's security policy.

"GI Mail is currently undergoing upgrades that will enable even wider access by users outside the .mil domain, yet still meet stringent security requirements," Chief Kennedy said.

"The Air Force strongly supports morale e-mail and other safe uses of the Internet, but these must be carefully balanced with mission security requirements.

He said, "We will continue working hard to provide the best morale services we can without putting our networks at risk."

SECDEF directs assessment

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has given the Defense Department Inspector General 90 days to assess the environment at representative installations within each military department with respect to the application of the homosexual conduct policy.

The assessment will include a review of the extent to which the harassment of service members based on perceived or alleged homosexuality may occur. The extent to which disparaging speech or expression with respect to sexual orientation occurs or is tolerated will also be assessed.

"As I have previously indicated, I am determined that the policy on homosexual conduct in the military be clearly understood and fairly enforced," he said. "This is critically important, as the effectiveness of the Department's application and enforcement of the policy has a direct relationship to unit cohesion and readiness."



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